

## VA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

*Committee on Veterans Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs information technology infrastructure reorganization assessment, focusing on the role of the Chief Information Officer in effectively managing information technology, after receiving testimony from Gordon H. Mansfield, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Linda D. Koontz, Director, Information Man-

agement Issues, Government Accountability Office; and Paul Wohlleben, Grant Thornton LLP, Chicago, Illinois, on behalf of the Information Technology Association of America.

## INTELLIGENCE

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

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## House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 34 public bills, H.R. 4090–4123; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 69; H. Con. Res. 269–272; and H. Res. 504–505 were introduced.

**Pages H9042–43**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages H9043–44**

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act:** The House passed S. 397, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others, by a yea-and-nay vote of 283 yeas to 144 nays, Roll No. 534—clearing the measure for the President.

**Pages H8990–H9011**

H. Res. 493, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to on Tuesday, October 18th, by voice vote.

**Moment of Silence:** The House observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the recent earthquake in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan.

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**Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006—Motion to Instruct Conferees:** The House rejected the DeLauro motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2744, to make appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, which was debated yesterday, October 19th, by a yea-and-nay vote of 209 yeas to 216 nays, Roll No. 535.

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**Appointed as Conferees:** Representatives Bonilla, Kingston, Latham, Emerson, Goode, LaHood, Doo-

little, Alexander, Lewis of California, DeLauro, Hinchey, Farr, Boyd, Kaptur, and Obey.

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**Meeting Hour:** Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, October 24th, and when the House adjourns on Monday, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25th, for Morning Hour Debate.

**Page H9014**

**Calendar Wednesday:** Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, October 26th.

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**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate today appears on page H8987.

**Senate Referrals:** S. 1736 was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and S. 1894 was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

**Page H9040**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9010–11 and H9011. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

### *Committee Meetings*

#### VA HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing on VA Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Testimony was heard from Jonathan B. Perlin, Under Secretary, Health, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ARMY'S UP-ARMOR HIGH MOBILITY MULTIPURPOSE WHEELED VEHICLE**

*Committee on Armed Services:* Held a hearing on the Army's M1114 Up-Armor High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (UAH) distribution strategy. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Army: Francis J. Harvey, Secretary; and GEN Richard A. Cody, USA, Vice Chief of Staff.

**AERIAL COMMON SENSOR PROGRAM**

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces and the Subcommittee on Technical and Tactical Intelligence of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence held a joint hearing on the Aerial Common Sensor Program. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: John R. Landon, Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance & IT Acquisition Programs); Claude Bolton, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology); MG Barbara Fast, USA, Commanding General/Commandant U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca; Tom Laux, Program Executive Officer for Air Anti-Submarine Warfare Assault, and Special Mission Programs and RADM Bruce Clingan, USN, Deputy Director, Air Warfare, both with the Department of the Navy.

**BUDGET RECONCILIATION; PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, WORK, AND FAMILY PROMOTION ACT; RESOLUTION REQUESTING PRESIDENT TO TRANSMIT TO THE HOUSE INFORMATION RELATING TO CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES OR CONSTRUCTION RELATING TO HURRICANE KATRINA**

*Committee on Education and the Workforce:* Ordered reported, as amended, to the Committee on the Budget amendments to the Social Security Act, Welfare Reform regarding the Committee's Instructions pursuant to the Conference Report on H. Con. Res. 95, Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

The Committee also ordered reported the following: H.R. 240, amended, Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2005; and ordered unfavorably reported H. Res. 467, Requesting that the President transmit to the House of Representatives information in his possession relating to contracts for services or construction related to Hur-

ricane Katrina recovery that relate to wages and benefits to be paid to workers.

**COMBATING METHAMPHETAMINES**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Health and the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials held a joint hearing entitled "Comprehensively Combating Methamphetamines: Impacts on Health and the Environment." Testimony was heard from Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, EPA; Stephanie Colston, Senior Advisor to the Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Joseph T. Rannazzisi, Deputy Chief, Office of Enforcement Operations, DEA, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

**NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM—MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing entitled "Management and Oversight of the National Flood Insurance Program." Testimony was heard from Representatives Baker and Taylor of Mississippi; David I. Maurstad, Acting Director and Federal Insurance Administrator, Mitigation Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security; and William O. Jenkins, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, GAO.

**NATIONAL GUARD AT HOME AND ABROAD—CRITICAL RULE**

*Committee on Government Reform:* Held a hearing entitled "The Critical Role of the National Guard at Home and Abroad." Testimony was heard from the following Governors: Edward Rendell, Pennsylvania; and Dirk Kempthorne, Idaho; David M. Walker, Comptroller General, GAO; the following officials of the Department of Defense: Thomas F. Hall, Assistant Secretary, Reserve Affairs; and LTG David F. Melcher, Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; LTG H. Steven Blum, USA, Chief, National Guard Bureau; MG Allen Tackett, USA, State Adjutant General, West Virginia; and MG Raymond Rees, USA, State Adjutant General, Oregon.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Government Reform:* Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 3256, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3038 West Liberty Avenue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Congressman James Grove Fulton Memorial Post Office Building;" H.R. 3368, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

6483 Lincoln Street in Gagetown, Michigan, as the "Gagetown Veterans Memorial Post Office;" H.R. 3548, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located on Franklin Avenue in Pearl River, New York, as the "Heinz Ahlmeyer, Jr., Post Office Building;" H.R. 3770, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 205 West Washington Street in Knox, Indiana, as the "Grant W. Green Post Office Building;" H.R. 3825, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 770 Trumbull Drive in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Clayton J. Smith Memorial Post Office Building;" H.R. 3989, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37598 Goodhue in Dennison, Minnesota, as the "Albert Harold Quie Post Office;" H.R. 4053, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 545 North Rimsdale Avenue in Covina, California, as the "Lillian Kinkella Keil Post Office;" S. 37, To extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years; H.R. 1455, To amend titled 45 and title 3, United States Code, to include the Department of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Homeland Security in the lists of executive departments and officers; H.R. 3496, amended, National Capital Transportation Amendments Act of 2005; and H.R. 4057, To provide that attorneys employed by the Department of Justice shall be eligible for compensatory time of for travel under section 5550b of title 5, United States Code.

### LONDON BOMBINGS

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity held a hearing on the London Bombings: Protecting Civilian Targets from Terrorist Attacks. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Homeland Security: Robert Jamison, Deputy Administrator, Transportation Security Administration; and Robert Stephan, Assistant Secretary, Infrastructure Protection Division.

### MITIGATING CATASTROPHIC EVENTS—EFFECTIVE MEDICAL RESPONSE

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack held a hearing entitled "Mitigating Catastrophic Events through Effective Medical Response." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT—FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT

*Committee on International Relations:* Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations held a hearing on African Growth and Opportunity Act: A Five-Year Assessment. Testimony

was heard from Florizelle Liser, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa; and public witnesses.

### SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE

*Committee on International Relations:* Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing on South Asia Earthquake: Impact and Humanitarian Response. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of State: Christina B. Rocca, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South Asian Affairs; and Michael E. Hess, Assistant Administrator, Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development; and Peter F. Verga, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Homeland Defense, Department of Defense.

### OVERSIGHT—VOTING RIGHTS ACT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on the Constitution held an oversight hearing entitled "The Voting Rights Act: An Examination of the Scope and Criteria for Coverage under the Special Provisions of the Act." Testimony was heard from Michael S. Steele, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland; J. Gerald Hebert, former Acting Chief, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

### WATER SUPPLY VULNERABILITIES

*Committee on Resources:* Subcommittee on Water and Power held an oversight hearing entitled "Water Supply Vulnerabilities in the Sacramento/San Joaquin River System." Testimony was heard from Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; BG Joseph Schroedel, USA, Commander and Division Engineer, South Pacific Division, Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army; Mike Chrisman, Secretary, Resources Agency, State of California; and public witnesses.

### SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

*Committee on Science:* Held a hearing on Science, Technology, and Global Economic Competitiveness. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### OVERSIGHT—DISASTER REBUILDING HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE—GULF COAST AFTER KATRINA

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines an oversight hearing on Rebuilding Highway and Transit Infrastructure on the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Transportation: J. Richard Capka, Acting Administrator, Federal

Highway Administration; and Susan E. Schruth, Associate Administrator, Federal Transit Administration.

#### **OVERSIGHT—DISASTER PROTECTION GULF COAST RECOVERY**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held an oversight hearing entitled “Expert Views on Hurricane and Flood Protection and Water Resources Planning for a Rebuilt Gulf Coast.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army: John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary (Civil Works); and LTG Carl A. Strock, USA, Chief; Benjamin H. Grumbles, Assistant Administrator, Water, EPA; and public witnesses.

#### **VETERANS LEGISLATION**

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 3665, amended, Veterans Housing Improvement Act of 2005; H.R. 1691, To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Appleton, Wisconsin, as the “John H. Bradley Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic;” and H.R. 4061, Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Management Improvement Act of 2005.

#### **OVERSIGHT—VA’s DISABILITY COMPENSATION CLAIMS PROCESS**

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held an oversight hearing on variances in disability compensation claims decisions made by the VA Regional Offices, the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder claims review; and United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit decision *Allen v. Principi*. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Jon A. Wooditch, Acting Inspector General, Audits; Steven H. Brown, M.D., Director, Compensation and Pension Examination Project; and Ronald R. Aument, Deputy Under Secretary, Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration; Cynthia

A. Bascetta, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, GAO; and John M. Garcia, Secretary, Department of Veterans’ Services, State of New Mexico.

#### **BRIEFING—GLOBAL UPDATES/HOTSPOTS**

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Met in executive session to receive a Briefing on Global Updates/Hotspots. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

#### **BRIEFING—AERIAL COMMON SENSOR PROGRAM**

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Met in executive session to receive a Briefing on Aerial Common Sensor Program. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

### *Joint Meetings*

#### **ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

*Joint Economic Committee:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the current economic outlook, focusing on the effects of the recent Gulf Coast hurricanes on the economy of the United States since a significant portion of U.S. oil and gas production is concentrated in the Gulf area, after receiving testimony from Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers; David F. Seiders, National Association of Home Builders, Washington, D.C.; and Mickey D. Levy, Bank of America, and Brad Setser, Roubini Global Economics, LLC, both of New York, New York.

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#### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2005**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

##### **Senate**

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

##### **House**

No committee meetings are scheduled.